



SHERIDAN COUNTY EXHIBIT OF FARM PRODUCTS AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR LAST YEAR—SAMPLE OF FARMING WITHOUT IRRIGATION—THESE WESTERN EXHIBITS WERE A REVELATION TO A LARGE SHARE OF FAIR PATRONS.

INVESTIGATING THE PACKERS AND BRINGING DOWN THE H. C. I.

Packers Amassing Great Wealth Because of Volume of Business—Other Matters Needing Immediate Attention of Statesmen.

By John W. Thomas.

I greatly fear that there is a sore disappointment in store for the dear people who think the High Cost of Living will come tumbling down, like the walls of Jericho when the priests blew their trumpet, because the politicians down at Washington, D. C., are beating the toms over a proposed investigation of the packers.

I'm glad the investigation is to take place at last—not that it will make the difference of a penny on the price of meat, either that which is paid by consumers or the price received by producers; but when it's out of the way, maybe the patriots and statesmen who are in position to do something will have time to give attention to matters that will make a difference.

There are real problems to be solved, problems that have an important bearing upon the interests of both producers and consumers of meat, and it would be better for the public if men holding offices in the executive and legislative branches of government gave more time and attention to solving these problems and less time to playing politics.

I do not claim that I can furnish the best solution for all public questions that need attention, but it is easy at least to point out some of these questions.

Almost every year there are some parts of the cattle country that are short of pasture and hay on account of drouth while other parts of the country have plenty. This year there are parts of the Wyoming and Montana range from which the cattle must be practically all removed on account of the extreme drouth. Nebraska and some other states have plenty of pasture and forage for their own stock and enough to spare to feed the stock in the drouth stricken districts! but other expense of getting them together is to a great extent prohibitive.

Wyoming ranchmen claim it will cost them right around forty dollars per head to bring their cattle into Nebraska, where there is plenty of grass and hay, keep them in this state till next spring and then return them to their Wyoming ranges. Rather than incur such heavy expenses, many of them are dumping their stuff, young cattle and cows, onto the market at whatever price they can get.

It isn't difficult to see the bad effect this will have upon the cattle industry, but how to avoid it—that's the question. If Senators Kenyon and Kendrick and others at the nation's capital who are supposed to be wise in matters relating to live stock will give proper attention to this and other practical matters instead of trying to put across something of doubtful expediency, they will greatly improve the quality of the service which they render to their country.

There are other matters relating to the public welfare that demand attention without further delay. The exorbitant prices which laborers are required to pay for the necessities of life make higher wages necessary. Lately it has been an al-

most constant round of increasing wages and raising prices on the things that wage workers must buy. Practically it does the wage-worker no good to increase his wages because when that has been done the price of things which he must buy has been promptly raised to take up all of his increased earnings.

If our wiseacres who run the national and state governments can and will do something to reduce the margin between what the producer receives for his products and what the consumer is required to pay for them, they will be rendering a valuable service to the country. A simple illustration has come under my observation within the last few days: In Douglas county, near Omaha, market gardeners are receiving about two cents per pound for fine, large ripe tomatoes; in Lincoln, less than sixty miles away, tomatoes are retailing at ten cents per pound and until within the last few days at fifteen and twenty cents per pound. Go into a restaurant or cafe or dining car and you will pay at the rate of about a dollar per pound for what you order.

It is reported that in some parts of the country fruit is going to waste because the growers cannot afford to gather and market it for what they can get for it; and yet the average family uses fruit sparingly because they cannot afford it at the price for which it sells at the stores.

The other day after ordering a slice of watermelon at a cafe, I made an estimate of what the entire melon would have cost me if I had purchased it at the same rate. I figured that it would have been not less than \$4.80. The grower of that melon did well if he got twenty-five cents for it.

What has all this to do with investigating the packers? It has this to do with it: If all of the packers' profit on the meat which they handle were removed, and no further reduction made to the consumer, the latter would not notice the difference in the price he pays; but if the extra price added to the meat after it leaves the hands of the packers were cut in two and if many other articles of diet could be purchased by consumers at anything near what the producers get for them, this burdensome soaring of prices would come to a sudden stop.

Investigating the packers? Yes, go to it. And while that is being done let some real statesmen give their earnest attention to matters that have a direct bearing upon the welfare of the people.

A smoker was given the members of the Eagles Lodge Wednesday evening at the club rooms. There was a good attendance of members who are in charge of the campaign for the sale of stock preparatory to the erection of the new building on unpaved Box Butte avenue. The soliciting committee are meeting with excellent success and it is expected that it will not be long before a sufficient amount of the building association stock has been subscribed to insure the erection of the business block.

DEMAND FOR RANGE IS NOW GETTING LIGHTER

Government Agent Says Most of Cattle from Drouth Stricken States Have Been Cared For.

According to information reaching C. H. Reahd, government agent in Nebraska in marketing work, who has been finding pastures and buyers in Nebraska for the stock of drouth stricken states, the free range on the cut-over lands of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan and a surplus of fall and winter range in Texas and New Mexico have decreased the demand for Nebraska aid.

Thousands of head of both cattle and sheep have been shipped to the northern states, where large land owning concerns offered free ranges on cut-over lands. The fall and winter ranges of the south are attractive because the stock need not be returned north until spring, when the Montana and Wyoming ranges would be ready for them. It was also discovered that Idaho, especially, has more feed than was first supposed. By bringing the hay growers and the stock men together it was found that at least most of the breeding stuff could be kept at home. At first there was a tendency for the hay producers to ask high prices. Threats of the cattle men to move their stock out and conferences conducted by farm bureaus have brought about agreements in most instances.

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES MUST NOW BE LAWFUL

Secretary of Agriculture Notifies Retailers that they Must Observe Laws and Asks Help of Public.

Leo Stuhr, secretary of the new department of agriculture of Nebraska, has sent the following notice to the retail fruit and vegetable dealers of Nebraska and desires the co-operation of the public at large to report violations of the Weights and Measures Law.

The notice sent to the dealers was dated August 7th and read as follows:

"To all retail fruit and vegetable dealers in Nebraska:
The Department of Agriculture wishes to call your attention to some of the new provisions of the law relating to Weights and Measures. Article XVIII, Section 15 of the Session Laws of 1919 provides as follows:

"Dry Commodities—How Sold—All dry commodities not otherwise specified in this article shall be sold only by standard weight, numerical count or linear or surface measure except where parties otherwise agree." This means the elimination of the bushel as the unit of dry measure in offering dry commodities for sale to the public unless otherwise agreed. In other words, articles of fruit or vegetables when offered for sale must be quoted by

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LIVE STOCK PROBLEMS SOLVED UNDER SUPERVISION OF MARKETS

Conditions in Big Centers Made Better During Year That Trade Has Been Conducted Under Government Licensing System; Confidence Established in Minds of Producers.

Live stock markets of the United States are more completely organized, more efficiently conducted, and better protected against loss to the producer than almost any other class of markets for farm products. However, like all other large enterprises, the live stock markets and meat-packing centers have created problems of supervision or regulation because of their extensive ramifications and their direct influence upon the affairs of every producer and user of meats and the long list of animal by-products.

As a consequence of these conditions and in view of the war needs for meat and other animal products, the government found it necessary, about a year ago, to conserve the meat supply for the war period by exercising the war power conferred upon the President, by the Food Control Act, and to place the live stock markets under supervision. A proclamation to that effect was issued by the President June 18, 1918, which provided that public stock yards and those handling or dealing in live stock in such yards should be required to operate under federal license on and after July 25, 1918. The administration of this service was placed under the Secretary of Agriculture, who designated the Bureau of Markets to enforce the regulations governing licenses.

Suggestions From Industry Used. Before the formal issuance of the regulations a tentative draft was sent to all interested parties with a request for suggestions. Numerous conferences were held with each branch of the industry, including representatives of the National and local live stock exchanges. As a result many practical and useful suggestions were received and incorporated in the final draft of the regulations.

At that time the Bureau of Markets was represented in most of the large live stock markets by its market reporting organization and these representatives were at once instructed to perform additional duties as acting market supervisors. As rapidly as competent candidates could be found they were appointed and assigned to duty in the various live stock markets, extending from Boston to Portland (Oregon) and from Jacksonville to Los Angeles, including up to the present time some 30 offices. One hundred and twenty-one stock yards, 394 exclusive commission firms, 785 traders, 107 order buyers, 231 packer buyers, and 1,051 concerns doing two or more classes of business have been licensed.

At a number of stock yards additional facilities and improved service have been installed through the activities of the market supervisors, according to Government officials. New scales, pens and sorting alleys have been built, better feed has been furnished, dirty pens have been cleaned, additional yard men have been employed, arrangements for loading, unloading and moving stock through the yards have been simplified, a closer check on weights of feed has been made, more prompt service on terminal railroads has

been furnished, and numerous other features of stock yard service have been improved.

At one important market the time required to move stock trains from the end of the terminal to the unloading chutes, which formerly was from 4 to 24 hours, has been reduced to a period of from 45 minutes to 2 hours. The officials of the Live Stock Exchange at that market say they had tried for 25 years to secure relief from terminal delays but without result. At another market the baskets formerly used for measuring corn were discarded and a new set of standard bushel baskets put in their place. Feed charges have been reduced in some cases on suggestion of the local market supervisors.

Supervisors Act as Umpires. Besides the direct purpose for which the supervision service was established, it has been utilized in other important matters. The Department representatives were in a position to be of assistance to the representatives of the Food and Railroad Administrations, exchanges, packers and stock yards during the critical days of the period of stabilized hog prices which this country has recently passed through. In this situation, as in many other matters, it was found that a neutral official representing no private or class interest could aid with a degree of satisfaction to all concerned which would have been impossible if left to the interested parties to work out. In other words, the Government men have acted as umpires, and, as always happens, the game has been played more fairly and with less friction.

One of the most important benefits from the supervision service, according to officials of the Bureau of Markets, is the confidence—lacking for many years—that has been established in the midst of producers and shippers of live stock. They say there is no question that the tendency among farmers and stockmen to increase their stock-growing and feed-operations is due in large part to the knowledge that Uncle Sam is supervising the markets.

The city of Wahoo is preparing to pave forty blocks. The preliminary work is practically completed. Telephone wires in the business section are being put in under ground conduits. The final installation of sewer pipes and lead water pipe connections in the business section are nearly completed and work has already commenced on curbing. The grading is nearly completed. Bunk houses are under construction for the housing of seventy or eighty laborers. The contractor expects to complete the paving this fall. Perhaps we can then get him to come up and do the paving on unpaved Box Butte avenue in Alliance.

Marion Coursey, nephew of Harry D. Coursey of Alliance, who has been working as a machinist for the Burlington at Alliance, left on Wednesday of last week for a visit of ten days at his home at Topeka, Kansas. Miss Novella, daughter of Harry Coursey, accompanied her cousin to Topeka for a visit with her cousins.

RIGHT OUT WITH OVERALLS ON



The cow with the blue ribbon hanging from her horn wouldn't stand still a moment until Miss Overalls volunteered to hold the

strap. You'll probably see both of them when you attend Nebraska's Victory State Fair, Lincoln, Aug. 31 to Sept. 5.